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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 13th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. TSHERING (Bhutan)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 106: CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE (continued) (A/50/345, A/50/379, A/50/475, A/50/432, A/50/254-S/1995/501, A/50/433)

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1. Mr. GIACOMELLI (Executive Director, United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDCP)) said that international drug control activities were nothing new, but that the United Nations had given them a multilateral dimension. With the globalization of the drug problem, which went beyond the particular concerns of States in specific regions affected by illicit production or consumption, drug control had gradually ceased to be the exclusive domain of national administrations. That process had been accelerated by the convening of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Traffic in 1987, the adoption of the Global Programme of Action at the seventeenth special session of the General Assembly in 1990, and the establishment of the United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) in 1991.

2. The General Assembly had seen UNDCP as one of the instruments for the innovative action it had decided to initiate in order to respond to global challenges such as drug trafficking and abuse, organized crime, terrorism, environmental damage and poverty, which threatened the peace and security of nations. The programme had been intended not to integrate previous drug control activities, but rather to direct the efforts of the international community in order to help it achieve its objectives in drug control. To that end, it served a triple function: together with the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, it acted as a co-custodian of international drug control conventions, with responsibility for facilitating their implementation; it provided a platform on which Governments could decide together on international action to deal with all aspects of the drug problem; and it coordinated the work of the United Nations system on drug control.

3. From very early on, UNDCP had been able to reach an understanding with Member States on priority directions in international drug control. Following consultations with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, a new international strategy had been drawn up, and received the approval of the General Assembly in 1990. That strategy was based on a balanced approach, whereby the reduction of demand and supply were seen as complementary elements in a multidimensional strategy, which promoted comprehensive national drug control plans integrated into each country's overall economic and social development plans. The strategy was intended to operate at the national, subregional, regional and global levels.

4. The Programme had achieved encouraging successes with the implementation of its subregional strategy, particularly in South-East Asia. The subregional approach allowed UNDCP to promote bilateral cooperation on drug control. Under its auspices, Cambodia and Viet Nam had joined the subregional arrangement between China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Thailand. At a ministerial meeting in Beijing in May, the six Governments had adopted a three-

year plan for supply reduction, drug law enforcement, precursor control and demand reduction. UNDCP had sponsored direct consultations between India and Pakistan, leading to closer working relationships at the policy and operational levels. UNDCP was also pleased to note the adoption of a memorandum of understanding between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan, which had led to the establishment of a cross-border drug law enforcement cooperation programme whose high direct costs were essentially met by the two Governments. It was to be hoped that Afghanistan would soon be incorporated into that subregional mechanism.

5. Besides its work in South-East and South-West Asia, the Programme had launched a regional initiative in South America, inviting the Governments of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile and Peru to work together, initially on a specialized training programme on suppression of illicit drug trafficking. The Governments of five Eastern European countries (Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Slovenia) had signed a memorandum of understanding on drug control matters. Similar agreements would soon be signed in other parts of Latin America, the Middle East, Central Asia and Africa.

6. Since drug trafficking and abuse threatened both the community as a whole and all members of civil society, UNDCP had worked to forge a partnership with society at large, and with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in particular. The NGO World Forum on Demand Reduction had been held in December 1994 in Bangkok as part of the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse. UNDCP had established an exemplary form of cooperation with the Drug Abuse Prevention Centre, a NGO, which conducted public awareness programmes in Japan, and which contributed a substantial part of the proceeds from those campaigns to UNDCP for its work supporting NGO demand reduction work around the world.

7. In order to mobilize civil society, the Programme had launched a campaign to use sports as a vehicle for drawing the attention of young people, particularly marginalized groups such as street children, to the drug problem. In 1995 it had concluded a cooperation agreement with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to help expand prevention programmes by offering deprived communities and youth at risk the possibility of participating in sporting activities. UNDCP also worked, often in conjunction with the International Labour Organization (ILO), to promote partnerships with the private sector for the prevention of drug abuse in the workplace.

8. In a relatively short time, UNDCP had become an authoritative source of information on different aspects of the drug abuse problem. At the national level, the Programme had begun applying the Rapid Assessment Methodology, through which it sought to help gather quantitative and qualitative information. At the international level, the Demand Reduction Expert Forums, complementing the regional meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, technical consultations on specific themes, and analytical studies all helped UNDCP to fulfil its role as activity coordinator. The research papers prepared by UNDCP for world summits, the study undertaken jointly with the World Bank on the social and economic impact of the illicit opiate industry in Pakistan, the innovative study on the economic and social consequences of drug abuse and illicit trafficking prepared for the Commission, and the upgrading of its

research capabilities had all helped UNDCP to strengthen its ties with other authoritative research centres.

9. UNDCP was encouraged by the growing number of States which had adhered to the international drug control treaties, particularly the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. It had provided legal assistance to States which should not only help them become parties to those instruments but also, and more important, ensure their implementation. That activity would continue to be a priority, as would institution-building efforts which entailed working with Governments in the preparation and adoption of national drug control master plans, which should facilitate transforming the sometimes abstract obligations of the treaties into practical programmes to combat drug abuse.

10. The General Assembly had entrusted UNDCP with the responsibility for coordinating and providing leadership for all United Nations drug control activities. As a participant in the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) and in the Joint Consultative Group on Policy, which brought together the large funding agencies, the Programme was in a position to enter into meaningful dialogue with the full range of United Nations system agencies with the objective of including, when appropriate, the drug dimension in their respective programmes of work. At its regular meeting the preceding spring, ACC had for the first time taken up the question of international drug control as an agenda item and had decided to assign to the ACC Subcommittee on Drug Control the responsibility for remodelling the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control. The Subcommittee had chosen to adopt an innovative approach based on the use of sectoral task forces. ACC had also recognized the need for a proactive approach to coordination, especially at the field level. It had called on resident coordinators to establish multi-agency theme groups to examine ways in which the drug control issue could be addressed in a coordinated and complementary manner, with the greatest possible integration.

11. UNDCP had also developed an especially close relationship with the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch, which was not surprising given the endemic link between drug trafficking, drug abuse and crime, especially in the countries undergoing transition.

12. The work of UNDCP was facing various constraints. There was an increasingly obvious contradiction between the recognition that the fight against illicit drugs should be a priority and the resources allotted to it. While 62 Governments contributed to the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, providing more than 92 per cent of its resources, more than 90 per cent of its funding came from only seven countries. The precarious financial constraints on UNDCP, and the priorities imposed by donors, jeopardized the elaboration and implementation of long-term strategies and the sustainability of the programme's achievements.

13. One of the most daunting challenges for UNDCP came from the uncertainty of the era ushered in with the end of the cold war, in the very year in which the Programme had been created. The acceleration of world history, especially in inter-State relations, which characterized that new era had led to a global expansion and diversification of the drug threat. Political instability in some

countries, the fact that the institutions necessary to combat organized crime were only emerging in others, and the seriousness of the economic crisis in which other countries still found themselves, were a boon for drug traffickers and a pernicious force for further social decay. Law enforcement officials, financial authorities and health personnel were left helpless before a problem which was often new to them. It was not surprising therefore that some voices were calling for outright capitulation.

14. UNDCP would not be able to continue its work of providing leadership and coordination to the United Nations system in drug control unless States followed its example within their own borders. They must do away with rivalries among ministries and law enforcement or other bodies. Unfortunately, too few countries had the capacity required for drug control policy development. UNDCP would therefore continue to provide countries which needed it with technical assistance to strengthen their national administrations, but the political will to do so must come from the States themselves.

15. That operational weakness was often compounded by a lack of knowledge of drug-related problems. The Programme's forecasting abilities, its assessment capacity, and its proactive formulation of activities would not be fully realized until the global information void was remedied. The reform movement under way in the United Nations system hampered efforts to steer new paths. When UNDCP was created in 1991, the Economic and Social Council had expanded the mandate of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to make it the governing body of UNDCP. With its increased membership, which had multiplied individual interests, the Commission was still in the process of defining its identity and role in the new administrative structure.

16. Paradoxically, in many countries drug control was overshadowed by more pressing issues. It was therefore necessary for UNDCP to play a more important advocacy role in increasing awareness of all aspects of the drug threat. The international community would take a great step forward by adopting a declaration on reducing demand and endorsing national strategies of programmes addressing the prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers. He called on all States which had not yet adhered to the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances to do so, and to make it an instrument for international cooperation in the fight against that scourge. It was especially important to make better use of the Convention to curb the diversion of precursors and chemicals to the illicit manufacture of drugs, to combat money laundering, and to enhance cooperation among States in the investigation and prosecution of drug trafficking offences. UNDCP would also continue to support the efforts of States to combat illicit drug trafficking by sea.

17. One of the areas where many States had made great progress had been the enactment of domestic laws that enabled them to confiscate the profits generated by illicit drug trafficking, which some States were using to finance national programmes to combat drug trafficking and to prevent drug abuse. Other countries had entered into agreements to share confiscated proceeds among themselves when they had worked together investigating and prosecuting international drug trafficking cases. The 1988 Convention encouraged States to give consideration to contributing some or all of the value of confiscated

property to intergovernmental bodies specializing in the fight against illicit traffic in and the abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, but no State had. He therefore encouraged States to consider doing so

18. The fight against drug abuse could become an ideal expression of the renewed commitment of the international community to the United Nations and its universal principles. But it could also fall prey to narrow national interests and ultimately lose meaningfulness at the international level; that would be a failure of epic proportions which must not be allowed to happen.

19. Mr. FERNANDEZ (Spain), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the fight against organized transnational crime required States to cooperate closely at all levels. The European Union was determined to make every effort to increase the effectiveness of the mechanisms of collaboration already existing in European Union countries and in other interested States, and would do so with full respect for the basic individual rights and freedoms, in accordance with United Nations standards and norms in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.

20. The World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime, held in Naples in 1994, had provided an excellent opportunity for an exchange of views on that type of crime. The European Union noted with satisfaction the Conference participants' resolve to protect society from organized crime in all its forms, and hoped that the conclusions and recommendations of the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime would contribute to the development of viable strategies for action. The United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, the status of which had been modified since they had begun acting as consultative body to the United Nations programme on crime prevention and criminal justice, should henceforth be better able to respond to the actual needs of Member States but should nevertheless not fail to set precise objectives and reduce the number of resolutions adopted.

21. The European Union supported the proposal of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice that States should be invited to elaborate, in conjunction with United Nations institutions and other relevant bodies, strategies for crime prevention which could be adapted to local circumstances. It also welcomed the Commission's recommendation that the United Nations should continue and develop its activities in the areas of research, exchange of information, training and technical cooperation in order to develop strategies for the protection of the environment by means of criminal law. It welcomed the Commission's proposals for gun control and firmly endorsed the measures recommended by the Commission with regard to children as victims or perpetrators of criminal acts and the prevention of violence against women. It urged the Commission to continue exploring ways of increasing its efficiency, and hoped that it would focus its work on its priority areas, which were particularly suitable for cooperation within the United Nations system.

22. Among the increasingly numerous and complex questions which were being submitted for consideration by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the European Union attached particular importance to international cooperation and technical assistance in the field of crime prevention and

criminal justice; the fight against organized transnational crime; the control of the proceeds of crime; violence against women; violence against children, including international trafficking in minors; the role of criminal law in the protection of the environment; and the prevention of urban crime.

23. Since the work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was closely related to that of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the European Union appealed to those bodies to increase coordination in areas of mutual concern. Similarly, it fully supported efforts to strengthen cooperation and coordination between the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and it called for cooperation between the Centre for Human Rights and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch. The European Union was concerned that the means at the disposal of that Branch were not sufficient in terms of its mandate and the growing number of requests for technical assistance it was receiving. At the same time, it noted with satisfaction that the Branch was cooperating closely with other United Nations bodies whose activities could supplement its own. It accordingly endorsed the Commission's appeal to all United Nations bodies, in particular UNDP and UNDCP, to include issues relating to crime prevention and criminal justice in their activities. Lastly, it welcomed the contribution of the United Nations programme on crime prevention and criminal justice to United Nations peace-keeping and peace-building operations and emergency assistance activities: that contribution could be of significant assistance in re-establishing the rule of law and in institution building.

24. The European Union had adopted in 1995 an action plan to combat drugs which addressed the three key elements of the drug problem: reduction of demand, action to combat illicit trafficking and international action against drugs. Actions to reduce demand included measures in the areas of health, education and culture, including a five-year public health community action programme for the prevention of drug addiction. To combat illicit drug trafficking, the Member States of the European Union had adopted new measures to prevent diversion of chemical precursors; measures had also been taken to implement the European directive on money laundering, and a number of cooperation activities involving judicial, customs and police authorities had been organized in the framework of the community strategy to combat the illicit manufacture of and traffic in drugs. At the international level, the action would aim at developing cooperation between European Union countries and third world countries with a view to controlling drug supply. The planned measures would be world wide in scope because they took regional priorities into consideration, in accordance with the Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly in 1990. Thus, for example, since 1992 the European Community Generalized System of Preferences had been helping member countries of the Andean Pact and the countries of Central America in their combat against drugs by exempting from all taxes industrial products and some agricultural products which they were exporting to Europe.

25. At their first meeting, held in Brussels on 26 September 1995, the Ministers of Justice and Home Affairs of the European Union and the Ministers of the Andean Group responsible for the fight against drugs had committed

themselves to bilateral regional cooperation in drug matters. The European Commission had been authorized to negotiate with Member States of the Organization of American States an agreement to prevent the diversion of precursors, and the Justice and Home Affairs Council had approved a draft action programme on judicial cooperation in the fight against international organized crime in cooperation with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the Baltic States. The Dublin Group continued to exchange information with other countries, and a joint European Union/South African Development Community (SADC) conference on illicit drug trafficking in South Africa would be held from 30 October to 3 November 1995 in Mmabatho, South Africa.

26. The European Union fully supported the United Nations comprehensive strategies, which called for joint and balanced action in the various fields including supply and demand reduction, promotion of alternatives to a drug-based economy, and prevention of money laundering, illicit drug trafficking and the diversion of chemical substances for use in manufacturing narcotic drugs. It was prepared to give due consideration to the recommendations contained in the report of the Executive Director of UNDCP on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 48/12.

27. For the future, the European Union welcomed debate on how best to maintain and consolidate the pledges made by the international community to combat the drug menace. The solution might be to work for universal ratification of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, full implementation of the United Nations Global Programme of Action and thorough integration of the results of recent United Nations meetings on that issue. In the coming years, efforts should be focused, above all, on strengthening the implementation of the Convention and the Plan so that significant progress could be achieved by the year 2000, which would mark the end of the Global Programme of Action. Milestones along that path would be the 1996 meeting of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the future high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council, which would help determine whether consideration should be given to new mechanisms for intergovernmental consultations on the fight against drugs, including a world conference.

28. The European Union fully supported the role of UNDCP as coordinator of international efforts to combat the drug problem, and welcomed the results of the meeting of its administrative committee, held in Vienna in the spring of 1995. UNDCP should coordinate its activities with those of other relevant United Nations bodies so that the latter could take drug abuse issues fully into account when developing and implementing their programmes and projects.

29. The European Union welcomed UNDCP efforts to improve cooperation between Member States and international organizations in the suppression of illicit drug trafficking by sea, through the strengthening of the provisions of article 17 of the 1988 Vienna Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. As for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, the members of the European Union noted with concern that fewer resources had been allocated to it during the biennium 1994-1995 than in the previous biennium, and asked all Member States to contribute to the Fund, whose action they firmly supported

30. Mr. BORDA (Colombia), speaking on agenda item 108, said that his delegation fully supported the statement made to the Committee by the representative of Ecuador on behalf of the Rio Group, in that it clearly reflected the firm consensus reached by the Heads of State of the region on the problem of illicit drugs.

31. On the question of international action against drugs, it had to be acknowledged that the results achieved so far had not lived up to expectations, mostly because the framework of action adopted almost 10 years previously had ignored certain basic realities, while some new elements, such as the Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime, adopted at Naples in November 1994, needed to be incorporated in the world-wide anti-drug strategy.

32. Thus, the supply of illicit drugs had not been substantially reduced, while the demand for and use of illicit drugs, whether of natural or synthetic origin, in the countries traditionally thought of as consumer countries, were on the increase, and new markets and areas of production had emerged. Moreover, barely 54 per cent of countries had ratified the 1988 Vienna Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, which made it particularly difficult to evaluate its effectiveness as an instrument of international cooperation.

33. That complex situation, which everyone found frustrating, was dangerous in so far as it might encourage members of the international community to shift responsibility for failures on to each other. As far as Colombia was concerned, it did not deny that it was at the origin of a major part of the drug problem and it was quite determined to play a major role in the search for and formulation of solutions.

34. At the national level, Colombia was currently preparing a programme of action in the fight against the global drug problem, the implementation of which was to be overseen by the President of Colombia. Under the plan Colombia was now carrying out a three-year programme to eliminate illicit crops and put a stop to drug production in its territory. In 1995 law enforcement officials of the Colombian Government had seized approximately 43 tons of cocaine and cocaine base, or a little over a quarter of the total amount of cocaine and cocaine base seized in the whole world, and Colombia expected to conclude an agreement with the European Union aimed at preventing and controlling the diversion of the chemicals needed to manufacture narcotic drugs. To complement that crackdown, the Colombian Government had adopted a national development programme which made it possible for small farmers to replace their illicit crops with legal ones, and which included plans for preventive measures to be taken in parts of the country liable to be used for illicit crops. Furthermore, money laundering had been made a punishable offence and the necessary steps had been taken to make prosecution more effective against complex forms of organized crime, on which / drug trafficking depended. Some significant results had been achieved, including the break-up of a particularly formidable Colombian cartel, which was a clear indication of the Colombian Government's determination to prosecute, try and imprison drug traffickers. In addition, the Colombian Congress was currently studying a draft constitutional reform which would further penalize personal use of psychotropic substances, and the Colombian Government was paying particular attention to discouraging drug use, rehabilitating drug addicts and

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preventing members of the most vulnerable groups from becoming drug users. In financial terms, public funding for the campaign against drugs was higher than ever, which was proof of the very great efforts being made at the national level. In 1995, for example, $984 million, representing 5 per cent of the national budget, or four times the UNDCP budget for the biennium 1994-1995, had been devoted to the prevention of drug production and use and to the crackdown on drug trafficking.

35. On the question of international cooperation in the fight against drugs, his delegation was of the view that the results achieved by the relevant United Nations bodies were not satisfactory, and he wished to share his concerns on several points. Financial cooperation, both bilateral and multilateral, was declining and the international community tended to focus too much attention on controlling the supply of drugs alone; attempts were made to eradicate coca and poppy crops, but little or no attention was paid to the illicit marijuana crops that proliferated on all five continents; the amounts of illicit drugs seized in some of the main consumer countries were very small, whereas that was where seizures should be greatest and would have maximum effect; there was an unfair tendency to shift global responsibility for the fight against drugs on to the drug-producing countries; policies and programmes for the prevention and control of drug abuse tended to cancel each other out, as the legal systems responsible for curbing demand were becoming more and more permissive; although it was recognized that the supply and trafficking of drugs were problems of an international nature, demand and use were considered predominantly national issues, an imbalance which effectively inflated the supply of illicit drugs. Lastly, his delegation was concerned at the absence of mechanisms which would allow members of the international community to develop an effective, comprehensive and concerted global policy which would balance responsibilities and make actions carried out at the regional level the touchstone for those taken at the global level. His delegation favoured a truly universal, concerted and world-wide anti-drug policy incorporating an evaluation of international cooperation in the fight against drugs.

36. His delegation was persuaded of the need to update global policy in the fight against drugs, and reaffirmed its strong support for the convening of an international conference to study ways to strengthen the implementation of existing mechanisms and to make good the shortcomings of the current strategy.

37. Ms. HUSKA (Canada) said that, despite the best efforts of Member States, regional and multilateral organizations and others, the drug problem was spreading and the only hope of bringing it to an end was by strengthening cooperation between States and adopting a balanced approach aimed at reducing the production of and demand for drugs and addressing the health, economic and social consequences of the problem.

38. Canada was continuing to counter the efforts of the drug traffickers, in particular with the help of the customs service, various levels of the police force, the coastguard and the Ministry of Defence. Various federal government departments, provincial and municipal governments and communities were pooling their efforts to reduce demand as part of a national drug strategy. Canada was currently working to develop a substance abuse model in order to estimate the social and economic costs of substance abuse and to measure progress made in

reducing those costs. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs had recognized the importance of that subject at its meeting in March 1995. It had also underlined the importance of primary and secondary prevention and regional cooperation.

39. During his visit to Canada in the spring of 1995, the Executive Director of UNDCP had underlined the need to strengthen coordination between drug programmes and crime programmes. The members of the group of seven major industrialized countries (the Group of Seven) had also considered the issue of drug trafficking and organized crime at their summit meeting in Halifax, Canada. National drug commissions, which were the building blocks of regional and international cooperation, should be strengthened. The international community had in the past decade set legal standards and created an institutional framework for international and regional cooperation which must now be implemented with a clear definition of priorities, rational use of the meagre resources available and an appropriate focusing of efforts. Canada favoured the idea of holding a high-level session of the Economic and Social Council which would provide an opportunity to assess the extent of compliance with the standards and to discuss means of strengthening cooperation and refining strategies. It was only through collective efforts, with the establishment of an appropriate legal environment and national programmes of rehabilitation, education, prevention and treatment and exchanges of information that States could hope to put an end to the scourge.

40. Mr. CAMACHO OMISTE (Bolivia) said that the international community was gravely concerned at the extent of drug trafficking, with its concomitant violence and corruption. The current situation was characterized by a continual increase in demand in the major centres of consumption, which stimulated supply in the centres of production. The measures adopted by the United Nations had made it possible to recognize the multilateral nature of the problem and to rethink it from a theoretical and operational point of view. Since the structural adjustment measures adopted by the majority of States had reduced their capacity for action, bilateral and multilateral cooperation should be strengthened. The complexity of the problem required a new strategy based on the experience acquired and the principle of shared responsibility and a greater willingness to act on the part of the major consuming countries.

41. Bolivia was currently one of the major coca producers. The third world countries, including Bolivia, were poor countries and were very vulnerable to drug trafficking, which had resulted in the establishment of a flourishing parallel economy. It was unfair that certain countries, which saw the elimination of cultivation as the main element of drug control, should put pressure on Bolivia to abandon the cultivation of coca; it was also contrary to the principles of the independence and sovereignty of countries. Despite its meagre resources, Bolivia was undertaking anti-drug action with the cooperation of friendly countries. It urged the international community to assist it in its programme of voluntary discontinuance of coca growing so that it would cease to be a link in the drug chain, while consolidating its political and economic stability. Experience showed that it was futile to try to reduce supply without at the same time reducing demand.

42. To be really effective, any new strategy to combat the production and use of drugs must take account of the balance of forces at the level of the

international community, the participation of civil society and respect for the sovereignty and dignity of States. The Heads of State and Government of the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Concerted Political Action (Rio Group), meeting at Quito, Ecuador, on 4 and 5 September 1995, had committed themselves to continuing the struggle against the consumption and production of and illicit trafficking in drugs and had advocated the adoption of strong measures to counter money laundering, distribution organizations, arms trafficking and trafficking in chemical precursors. As the representative of Ecuador had said, speaking on behalf of the member countries of the Rio Group, his delegation was in favour of the drafting of an inter-American convention to counter money laundering. It also favoured the convening of a new world conference on drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking in 1997 to continue the work initiated following the Vienna Conference in 1987.

43. Ms. AKBAR (Antigua and Barbuda), speaking on behalf of the States members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) on agenda item 106, said that they were greatly concerned at the threat that increased criminal activity represented for their fragile economies and the ability of their citizens to secure sustainable livelihoods. As the Attorney-General of Barbados had stated at the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, law and order, the preservation and maintenance of the rule of law, crime prevention and penal reform lay at the heart of development for small developing States of the Caribbean. She referred to the omnibus resolution which had been adopted at the Ninth Congress, in which Member States were urged to enact legislation to protect their environment, to establish regional policies with a view to strengthening cooperation and coordination of activities in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice, to professionalize staff in the judicial sector and make law enforcement personnel more aware of the needs of the communities they served, and to develop programmes designed to promote respect and tolerance.

44. The States members of CARICOM were concerned at the deterioration in the world economic and social situation and the rise in criminal activity among young people, which went hand in hand with a feeling of marginalization resulting from limited employment opportunities, poor political representation and an increase in the availability of drugs and alcohol, and they fully supported the work carried out within the framework of the draft world programme of action for youth to the year 2000 and beyond.

45. The international community should also address the serious social and behavioural problems which led to violence against women.

46. Five years after the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, criminal terrorism and drug trafficking continued to present enormous difficulties for the island countries of the Caribbean. It was precisely to put an end to the scourge of transnational crime that eight Caribbean countries had formed a regional security system designed to provide a concerted response to the problems posed by territorial integrity and national security. Implementation of the United Nations standards to which the system was supposed to adhere might be the only means of deterring the perpetrators of transnational crime.

47. Furthermore, the States members of CARICOM were predisposed to the idea of establishing an open-ended intergovernmental working group to draft a code of conduct to combat that type of criminal activity and to draw up an international convention against organized transnational crime. They also continued to support the establishment of an international criminal court which would guarantee equal justice to all countries, large and small.

48. The States members of CARICOM were convinced of the need to implement the recommendations of the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, particularly those relating to the protection of children, corrupt officials, firearms and the strengthening of the United Nations crime control advisory services and training programmes. They also reaffirmed that they supported the recommendations contained in the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, particularly those pertaining to the elimination of all forms of violence and those calling for the protection of victims. They called upon the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Bretton Woods institutions and other international funding agencies to assist in strengthening the operational capacity of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme.

49. Mr. GELBARD (United States of America) said that, faced with a phenomenon that threatened its peoples, societies and democratic institutions, the international community must do battle with an elusive adversary which sought to draw its peoples into a vicious cycle of drug production, shipment, sale and abuse. While drug trafficking and other crimes posed a law enforcement problem in nearly every part of the world, most nations had not viewed them as a political, diplomatic or pressing national security matter until organized, transnational crime had acquired a political power which threatened government institutions.

50. The United States was currently completing a review of its approach to transnational crime that would lead to a stronger, more coordinated attack on the problem. In order to help other States in that field, the United States and Hungary had created the International Law Enforcement Academy in Budapest to train police officers and other law enforcement officials from Central Europe and the States of the former Soviet Union. The United States had also established a police academy in Haiti. Bilaterally, his country was working with other nations to stop illegal trafficking in migrants, negotiate treaties to facilitate the return of stolen American automobiles, and halt the spread of Nigerian fraud operations.

51. Convinced that the United States had a particular obligation to deal with drug consumption, his Government had spent $12 billion on drug control in 1994, of which 91 per cent had been allocated to demand reduction and to treatment and rehabilitation programmes, and it had begun to see the results of its efforts. But, without a significant reduction in supply, it was impossible to make much progress in the war against drugs. Drug trafficking generated hundreds of billions of unregulated dollars annually and caused enormous disruption to economic planning and growth, as well as constituting a political threat. There must, therefore, be a concerted and sustained effort to reduce narcotics production and to dismantle the most powerful drug trafficking organizations. To that end, the 1995 National Drug Control Strategy was continuing to focus, in

the northern hemisphere, on source countries; was considering more carefully how to destroy major transit and transshipment operations; was strengthening the anti-narcotics institutions of cooperating countries; was increasing pressure on the primary organizations of narcotics trafficking; and was expanding United States approaches to multilateral organizations. At the international level the problem lay in the source countries that grew coca and in the international organizations that controlled most cocaine processing and world-wide distribution. His Government believed that such countries should fulfil their obligations, particularly those contracted under the conventions, and stop growing coca. Alternative development assistance must have as its goal the total elimination of coca growing.

52. His Government was increasingly concerned by the heroin trade in the Eastern hemisphere. It had supported programmes in Pakistan, Laos and Thailand and continued to support strongly the work of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP). However, multilateral support in confronting the growing heroin problem in Asia must be a priority. Heroin trafficking networks had become so complex that countries which had once been on the periphery of the trade, such as Nigeria, now played important roles as brokers and distributors. Burma was by far the leading opium producer since it had accounted for approximately 70 per cent of world-wide production in 1995, but at least 10 other countries had become significant producers in recent years. In South-East and South-West Asia, opium was produced in tribal or ethnic areas controlled by semi-autonomous, well-armed and violence-prone warlords who were largely outside local government control. Not only had heroin production doubled since 1986, demand had also grown. Many drug users were switching from opium to heroin, a trend well documented in Pakistan and Laos. Heroin addiction was spreading in transit countries such as China and India and remained the primary drug abuse concern in Western Europe. There were signs of growing heroin use in Central Europe, Russia and the newly independent States.

53. The United Nations and other multilateral organizations must play a role in both hemispheres, but particularly in Asia. His Government had asked the multilateral development banks to focus more of their loans on programmes that could help to create income and employment alternatives in narcotics-producing areas and strengthen the ability of judicial systems to investigate and prosecute drug traffickers. In return, countries must take steps to eradicate drug crops.

54. His Government strongly supported the leadership of the United Nations in the fight against drugs. In order to sustain the high-level international commitments which had developed such tools as the United Nations drug conventions, resources must be mobilized at both the international and national levels. His Government firmly believed that United Nations conferences or summits which did not have clear justification were of very limited utility and could only divert resources which might have been used for programmes at the field level. On the other hand, UNDCP must have the necessary resources to help Governments apply the anti-drug tools that had been developed. Regrettably, many States had yet to ratify and implement fully the 1988 Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. While his Government welcomed the high-level discussions which the Economic and Social Council would hold in 1996 to examine the status of international cooperation

and give direction to the entire United Nations system, it could not endorse a proposal for a separate United Nations conference or summit on drugs.

55. The international community must sustain its momentum and buttress earlier commitments by providing increased political support and voluntary contributions to UNDCP; by lending support, through the multilateral development banks and other United Nations agencies, to key drug control programmes and objectives; by supporting, in regular budget discussions, the International Narcotics Control Board secretariat's expanded role in chemical control; and by ratifying and implementing the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, particularly the articles on maritime trafficking, money laundering and chemicals. The community of nations must not allow any country to become a haven for drug traffickers and criminals. As President Clinton had said, nations must protect not only themselves, but also one another, against the activities of those criminals. Such a task was not one nation's mission, but one that required a multilateral partnership.

56. Mr. TELLES RIBEIRO (Brazil), speaking on agenda item 106, said that Brazil had taken strong measures to improve the internal situation in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice and that the Government was endeavouring to align penitentiary and criminal policy with the principles espoused by the United Nations. The main emphasis of Brazil's policy was to prevent rather than merely to combat crime and it therefore attached special importance to the rehabilitation of criminals and their reintegration into society. Legal assistance, which Brazil contemplated granting to those prisoners who could not afford it, was one way of reducing overcrowding in the prisons. Brazil was also trying to replace prison sentences by other measures such as fines or community service. In order to combat torture and ill-treatment in the prisons, the Brazilian Government had in 1994 established basic rules for the treatment of offenders which enforced the relevant provisions of the Constitution and were in accordance with United Nations resolutions on the matter. Those rules guaranteed offenders certain rights (physical exercise, health and sanitation services, education and the preservation of privacy) and sought to establish an environment compatible with the goal of social rehabilitation and reintegration. The Brazilian Government, which sought to decentralize the penitentiary system, was giving priority to smaller prisons and detention centres which allowed offenders to remain within their communities of origin and to have better access to education and work. Brazil, which was convinced that it was possible to foster human dignity in prison, had enacted legislation governing the employment of prisoners, who were paid for their work and could obtain a reduction of their sentence. The money which they earned could also be used to cover damages inflicted on their victims.

57. Brazil accorded high priority to the fight against transnational crime, which had profound repercussions on the social fabric of both developing and developed countries, and therefore fully supported joint international efforts in that area, including the possible drafting of an international convention. It welcomed the results of the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. With regard to agenda item 108, he said that his delegation, which fully subscribed to the statement made by the representative of Ecuador on behalf of the Rio Group, believed that a fundamental aspect of transnational crime was the production and consumption of

and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances; that aspect must be the object of a concerted effort by the international community. The proposal regarding the convening of an international conference on narcotic drugs had been approved by the Rio Group, at its highest level, and should be given careful consideration by the Third Committee during the current session.

58. Brazil, which was a transit country for drugs, had been working to modernize its institutions and, in particular, had reformed the structure of the Ministry of Justice, within which it had created a secretariat of planning for national action in public safety which was responsible for improving the organization of governmental and non-governmental mechanisms and enhancing their efficiency, particularly in the area of prevention. The Federal Council on Narcotic Drugs, which brought together representatives of all the public sectors concerned, was responsible for the normative orientation and technical supervision of national efforts. Brazil had incorporated into its national legislation some of the most important provisions of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Acts 9017 and 9034, adopted in 1995). Legislation on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and their precursors, which had been drawn up in collaboration with UNDCP and covered such aspects as money laundering and access to financial and commercial information, was in the final stages of approval by Congress. Brazil was grateful to UNDCP and reaffirmed its readiness to continue to work closely with the Programme.

59. At the bilateral level, Brazil, which had already concluded cooperation agreements with all South American countries and with some European countries (the United Kingdom, Portugal and Germany), had in 1994 signed agreements with Cuba and the Russian Federation. In 1995, it had renegotiated its cooperation agreement with the United States and had negotiated similar texts with Italy, Denmark and South Africa. It had also embarked on the task of harmonizing legislation and coordinating anti-drug policies with Argentina and hoped to be able to extend the arrangement to other countries in the region. Lastly, Brazil was convinced that social awareness and participation were of the utmost importance in helping public institutions in their fight against drugs.

60. Mr. RAI (Papua New Guinea) said that, because of its geographical and topographical features, Papua New Guinea, like other Pacific island countries, had in recent years become a major transshipment point for illicit drugs destined for Australia, Europe and North America. Marijuana and cannabis, which grew wild in the country and had traditionally not been used, were now being exploited by the local population which had come to realize their commercial value and sought to maximize their profits by collaborating with drug traffickers.

61. Papua New Guinea was working in close cooperation with other countries in the region to address the problem. With the collaboration of UNDCP, regular meetings of police commissioners and other law enforcement officials had been held for several years, but those efforts were still not enough to put an end to the problem. Papua New Guinea and other countries in the South Pacific would therefore welcome international assistance from the United Nations system and other bilateral and multilateral sources.

62. Mr. ASIRDIN (Indonesia), referring to the various measures taken by the United Nations to combat the production, transit and consumption of illicit drugs and to deal with the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts, said that the United Nations remained the most appropriate organization to undertake concerted and coordinated action in that area. The Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme continued to seek a more integrated global approach and to prepare guidelines at the country level to help Member States to formulate their national plans and organize regional workshops.

63. UNDCP could strengthen system-wide cooperation by establishing a genuine partnership, drawing on the particular expertise of its main partners. Moreover, his delegation believed that, particularly in view of the considerable financial difficulties which the Organization was experiencing, a division of labour should be established, based on the capacities of each of the relevant United Nations entities. If that approach was to be effective, however, a certain degree of consistency would be required.

64. His delegation believed that inter-agency mechanisms were important and thought that the participation of UNDCP, as an observer, in the work of the Joint Consultative Group on Policy had made it possible to integrate drug control activities into other development programmes carried out by the United Nations system. Moreover, it was glad to note that the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), when considering international drug abuse control in 1995, had recognized the need for United Nations programmes, funds and agencies to incorporate the problem of drugs into their respective programmes. It also welcomed the continued cooperation between UNDCP and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Secretariat and the contribution they had made to the work of the Subcommittee on Drug Control of ACC. The joint committee which those two bodies had established to review activities of mutual interest was a positive step in strengthening cooperation and in responding to the request by the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs for closer coordination between the two bodies. Not only had UNDCP participated in regional preparatory meetings for the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and in the International Conference on Preventing and Controlling Money Laundering and the Use of the Proceeds of Crime and the World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime, but it had cooperated, at the operational level, with the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch and in a number of projects.

65. His delegation regretted that the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control had not functioned as well as had been envisaged, but it recognized that it had made a contribution to the work of the United Nations in that field. It hoped that when it was revised, as the General Assembly requested in resolution 49/168, through the elaboration of specific multi-agency sectoral plans of action, the System-wide Action Plan would become more effective and contribute to a more focused approach.

66. His delegation welcomed the initiative of UNDCP in establishing the Working Group on Maritime Cooperation, the aim of which was to combat drug trafficking by sea. At its meetings in September 1994 and February 1995, the Working Group had emphasized that States should maintain an ongoing and expeditious exchange

of high-quality general information and that UNDCP should be able to respond to requests from Member States for technical assistance, including training.

67. His delegation wished to underline the need to reduce the demand for drugs and to adopt a balanced approach at all levels. In that connection, it pointed out that Indonesia had been a sponsor of the resolution entitled "Integration of demand reduction initiatives into a cohesive strategy to combat drug abuse", which the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had adopted at its thirty-eighth session in March 1995.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.